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AUTHOR Casper, Lynne M.; O'Connell, Martin
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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides information on the use and cost of child care for preschoolers. Tables and charts provide data on: (1) child care arrangements used by employed mothers for preschoolers; (2) the weekly cost of preschool child care from 1986 to 1993; (3) the percent of arrangements for which payments are made; (4) regional differences in child care costs; (5) the percent of preschoolers of employed mothers in frequently paid for child care arrangements by family income; (6) the percent of families paying for child care by family income and poverty status; (7) the cost of child care for families by family income and poverty status; and (8) the percent of monthly family income spent on child care by family income and poverty status. The data indicate that a family with a preschool-age child spent an average of 64 dollars per week for child care in 1986 and 79 dollars per week in 1993, that economic status plays a major part in the choice of child care, and that child care is more of a burden for poor families than for middle class families, because they pay a larger share of their monthly income for child care. The document consists mainly of graphs and illustrations. Two tables are attached. (MDM)

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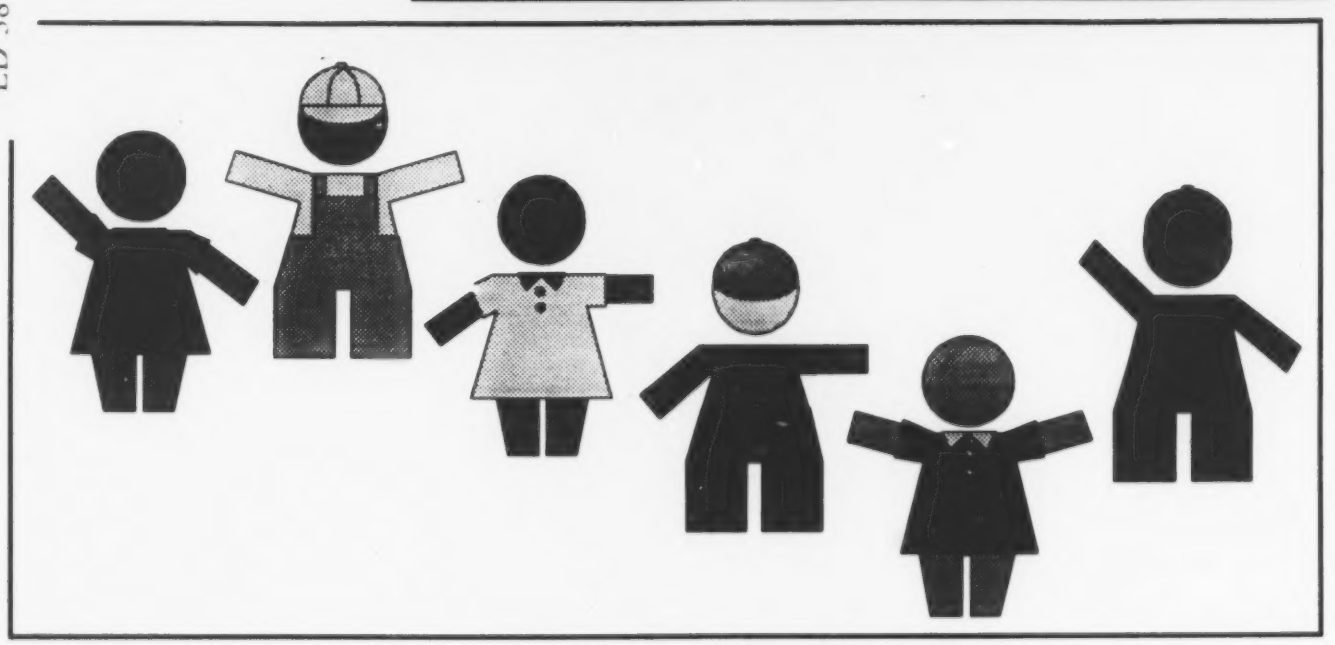
WHAT DOES IT COST TO MIND OUR PRESCHOOLERS?

ED 387 261



Lynne M. Casper and Martin O'Connell
Population Division, Fertility Statistics Branch
U.S. Bureau of the Census
(301) 457-2416

PS 023628

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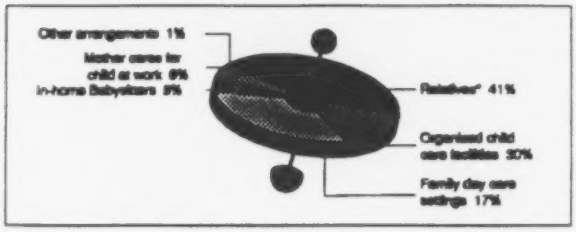
The choice of child care arrangements for preschool-age children is one of the most important daily decisions parents make. It is an age where children are most dependent on a care provider's supervisory skills and often marks the time when children make their first prolonged social contacts with persons outside the immediate family.

In 1993, there were 9.9 million children under 5 who were in need of care while their mothers were at work. Family members (41 percent), organized child care facilities (30 percent), and family day care settings (17 percent) were among the principal child care arrangements used for preschoolers while their mothers were at work.

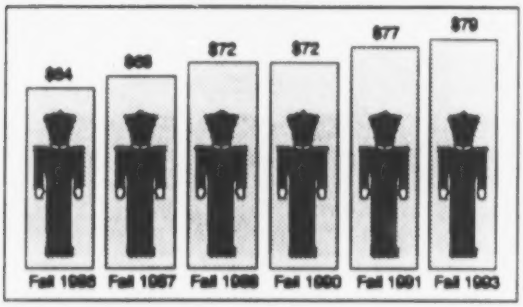
Care Arrangements Used by Families with Employed Mothers for Preschoolers: 1993


Other arrangements 1%
Mother cares for child at work 6%
In-home Babysitters 9%
Relatives* 41%
Organized child care facilities 30%
Family day care settings 17%

* Includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

Weekly Cost of Child Care*

(In constant 1989 dollars)

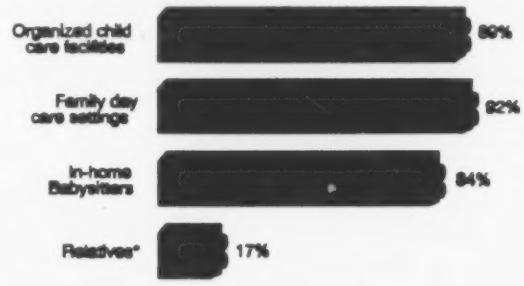


* Invited to families with a preschooler

One of the greatest concerns that a family must face is finding low-cost child care during the time parents are at work. Families with employed mothers are spending more today on child care than they did in the past. A family with a preschool-age child spent an average of $79 per week on child care in 1993 compared with only $64 per week in 1986.

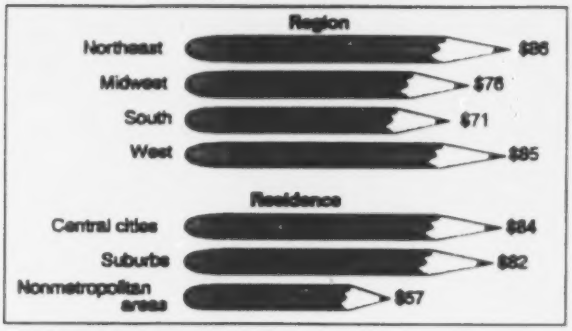
Parents are more likely to have to pay for child care when nonrelatives are used. When children are cared for in arrangements such as organized child care facilities, family day care settings, or by in-home babysitters, about 9 out of 10 families with employed mothers make payments. This is 5 times as many as when relatives are used.

Percent of Arrangements for which Payments are Made*



* Includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

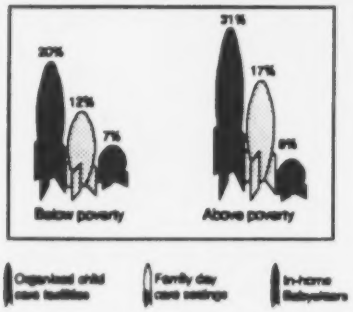
Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Region and Residence*



* limited to families with only preschoolers

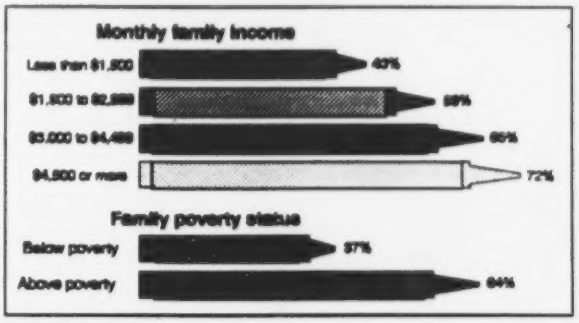
Costs of child care vary geographically. Families with employed mothers living in the Northeast and West paid an average of $85 per week for child care, while families in the Midwest and South paid about $10 and $15 less per week, respectively. Child care costs faced by families living in metropolitan areas averaged slightly over $80 per week, about $25 per week more than families living in nonmetropolitan America.

Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Family Poverty Status



Economic status plays a major part in the choice of child care. Families with employed mothers living above the poverty line tend to choose arrangements which are more likely to require cash payments. About one-half of preschoolers living above the poverty line are in these arrangements compared with 4 out of 10 preschoolers living below poverty. This results in greater proportions of upper income families paying for child care.

Percent of Families Paying for Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status*



* limited to families with only preschoolers

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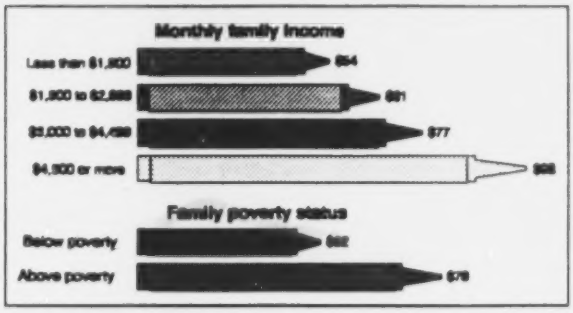
Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Family Income and Poverty Status*

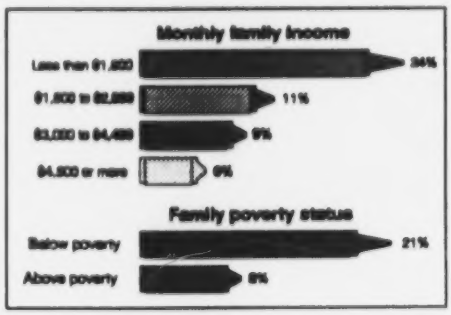


* limited to families with only preschoolers

Poor families pay less for child care then nonpoor families. Child care costs averaged about $50 per week for poor families with employed mothers in 1993 compared with $79 per week for families above the poverty line.

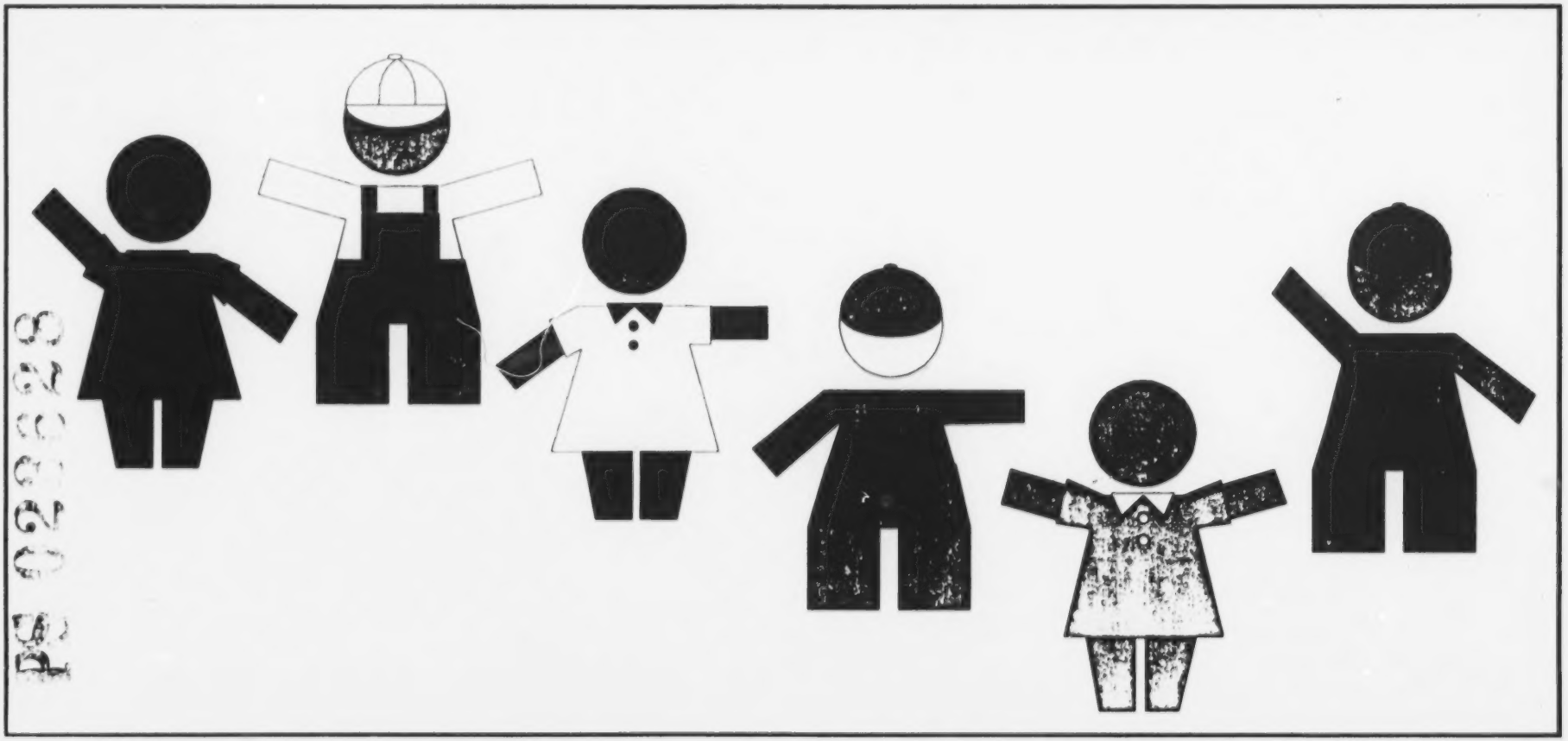
Child care is more of an economic burden for poor families because they pay a larger share of their monthly income for child care. Among families with employed mothers who pay for child care, poor families spent 21 percent of their monthly income in 1993 on child care, about 2-1/2 times the proportion of monthly income spent on child care by nonpoor families. If current welfare proposals make benefit recipience contingent upon labor force participation, then child care costs may prove a difficult barrier to overcome in securing employment if provisions are not included for affordable child care arrangements.

Percent of Monthly Family Income Spent on Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status*



* limited to families with only preschoolers

WHAT DOES IT COST TO MIND OUR PRESCHOOLERS?



By: Lynne M. Casper and Martin O'Connell
Graphics prepared by: Pam Sadowski
Source: Surveys of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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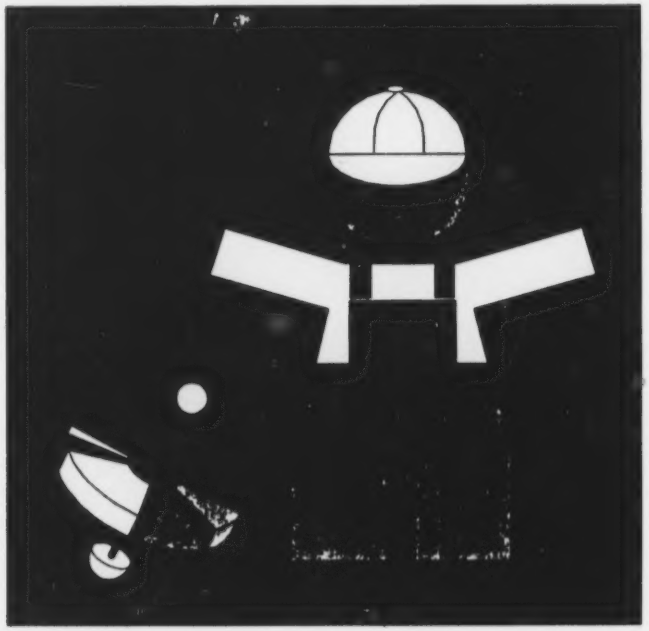
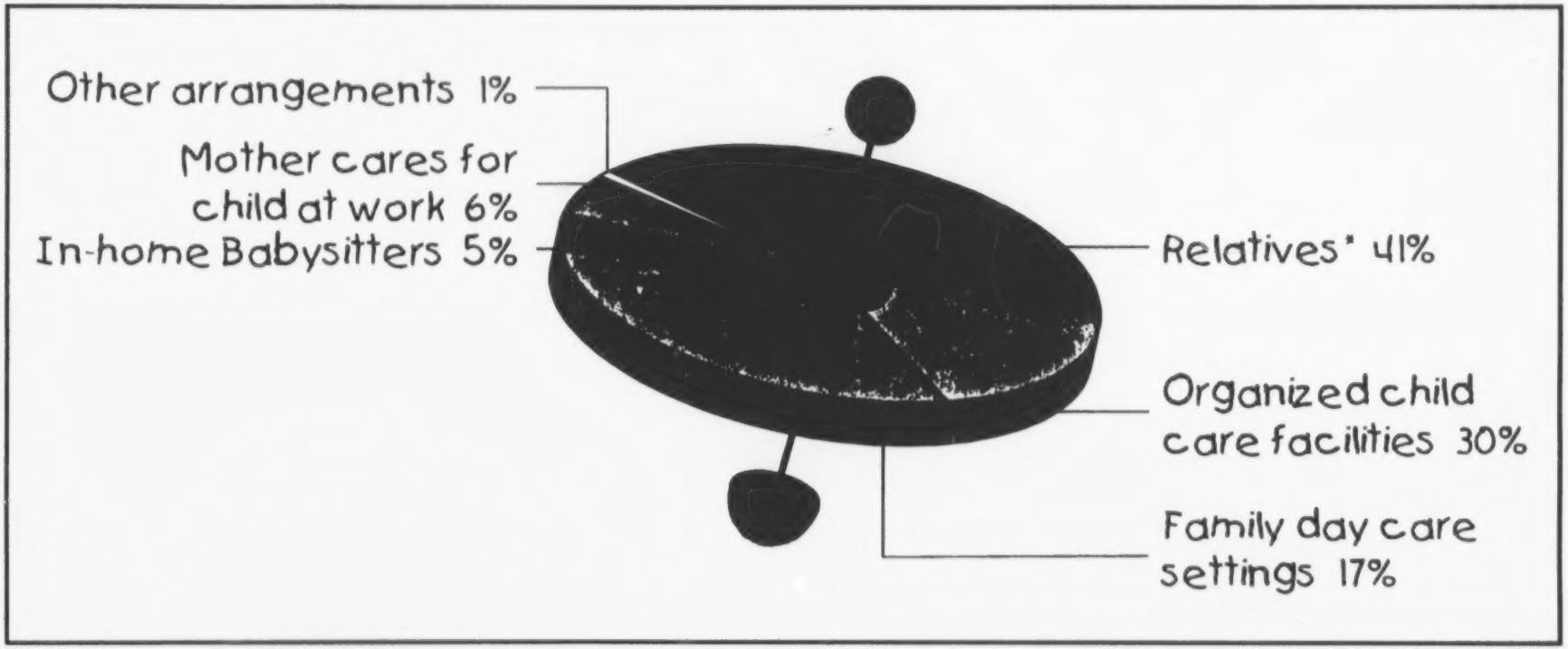
Family members, organized child care facilities and family day care settings were the principal providers of child care for preschoolers while mothers were working in 1993.

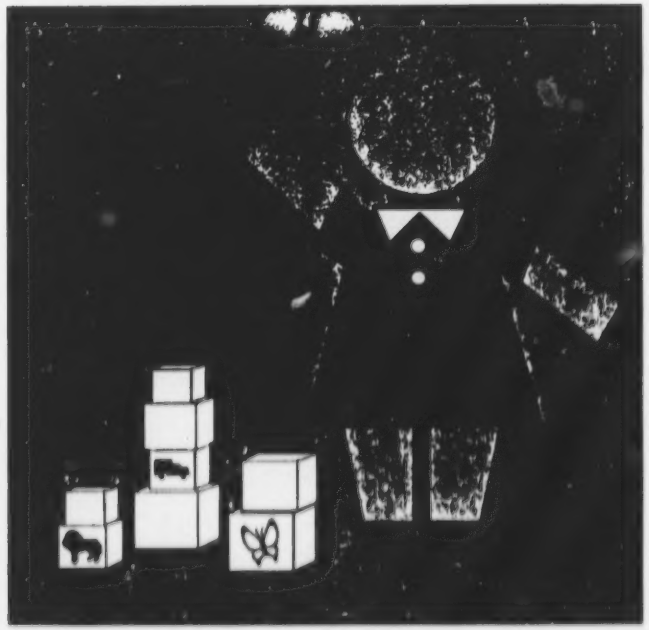


Care Arrangements Used by Families with Employed Mothers for Preschoolers: 1993


Other arrangements 1%
Mother cares for child at work 6%
In-home Babysitters 5%
Relatives* 41%
Organized child care facilities 30%
Family day care settings 17%

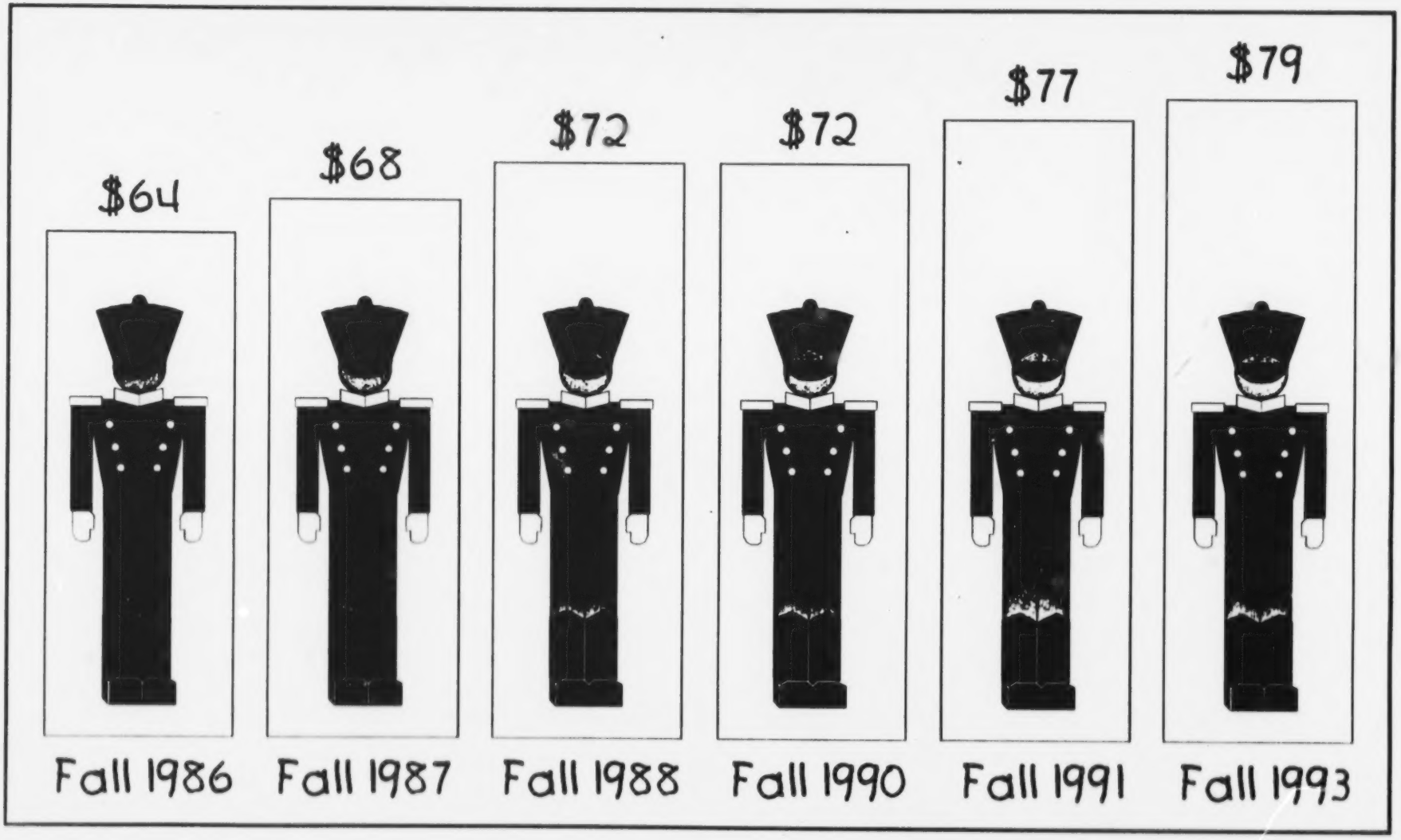
* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

Families with employed mothers are spending more on child care.



Weekly Cost of Child Care*

(In constant 1993 dollars)



* limited to families with a preschooler

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Parents are more likely to have to pay for child care when nonrelatives are used.

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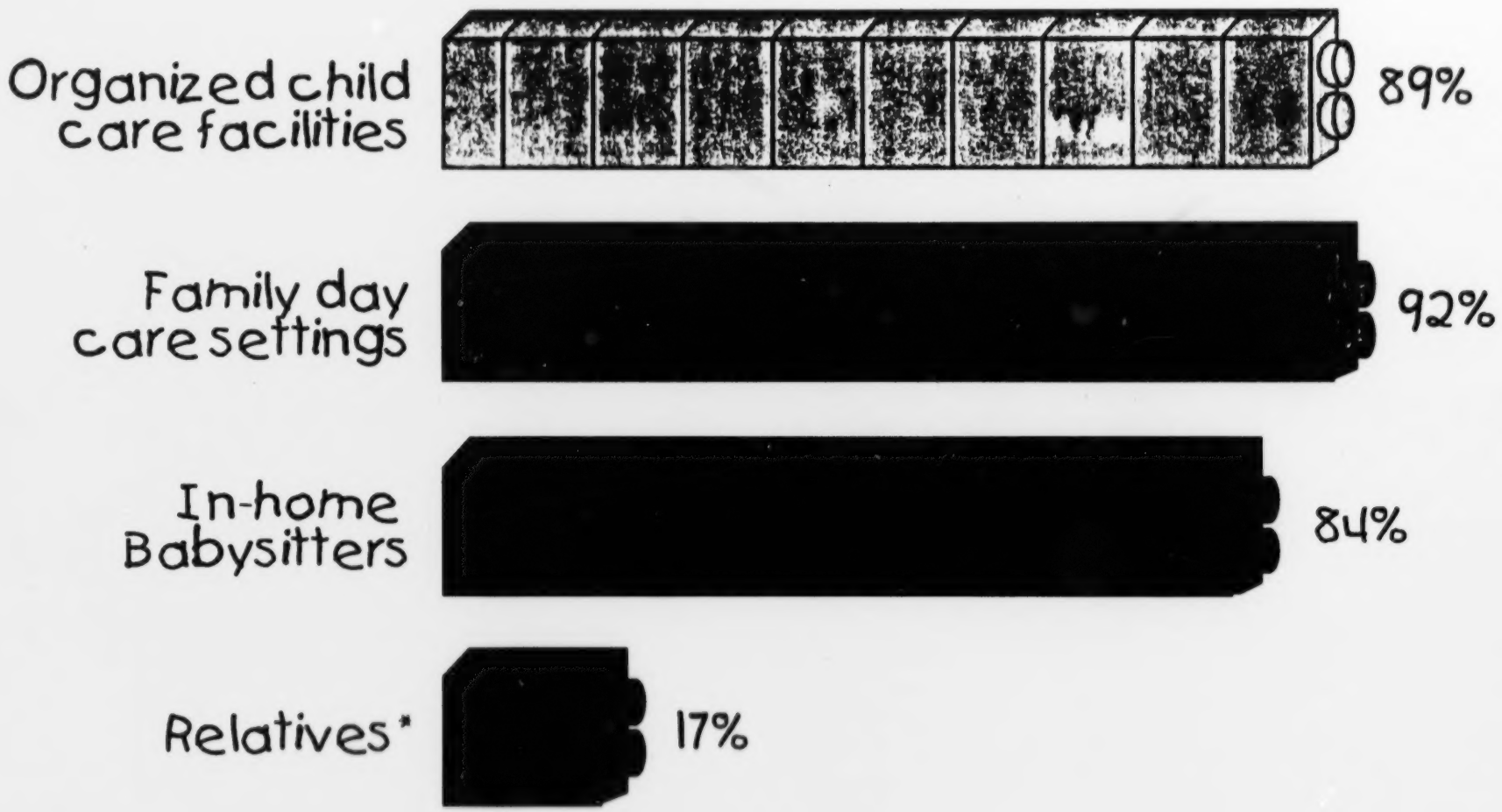
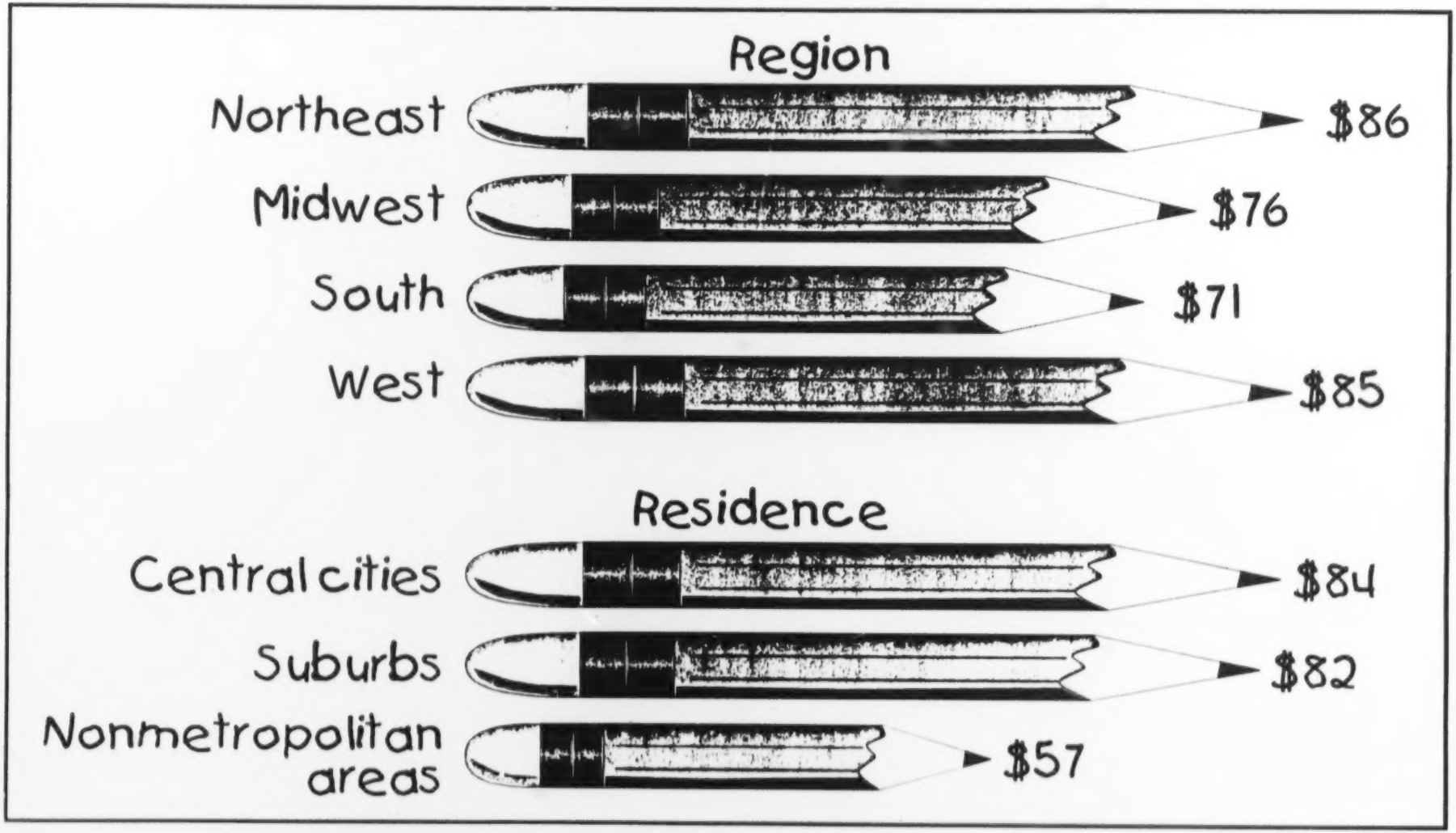
Percent of Arrangements for which Payments are Made*



* includes fathers, siblings, grandparents and other relatives

Families pay more for child care in the Northeastern and Western regions and in Metropolitan areas

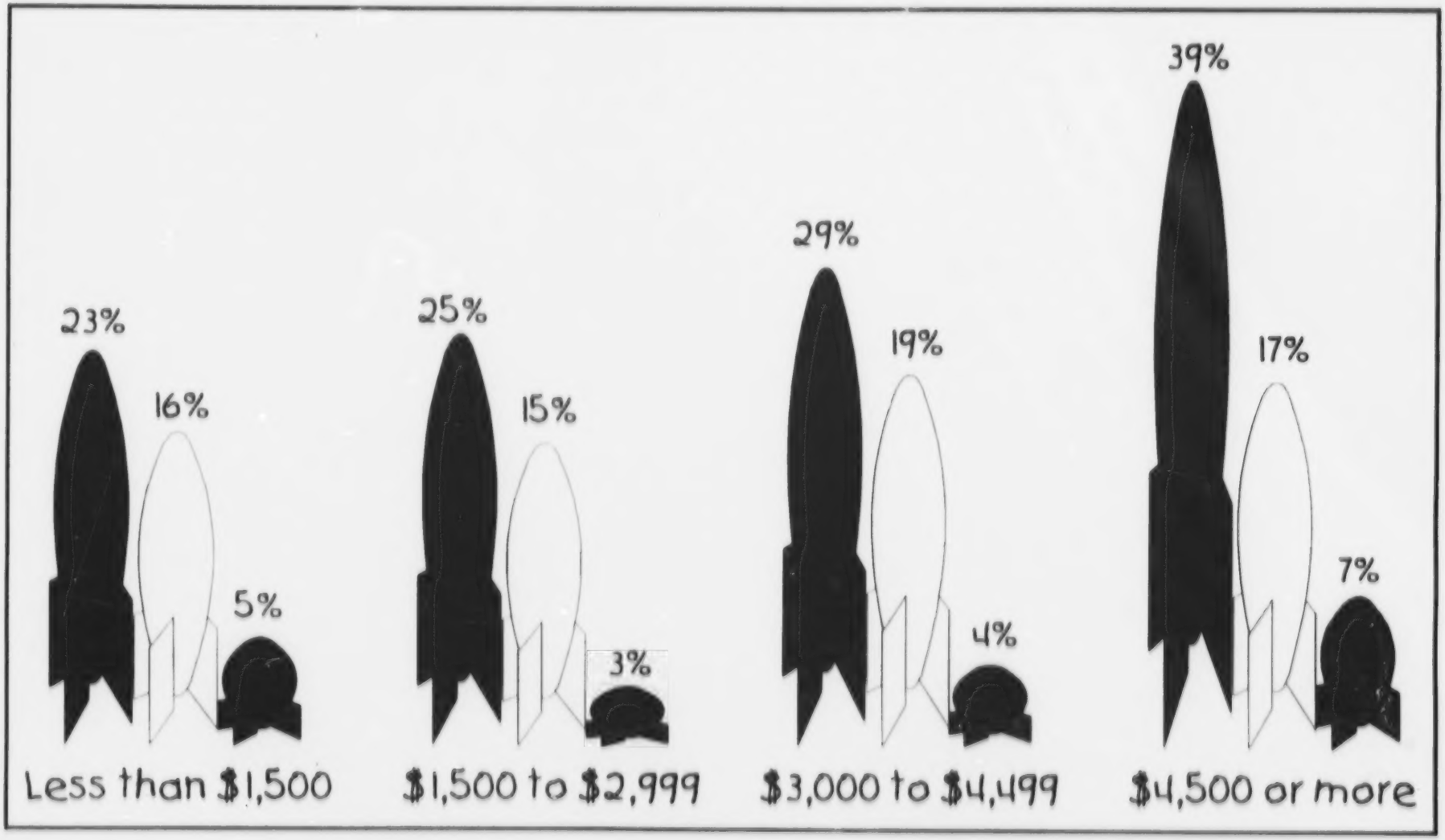
Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Region and Residence*



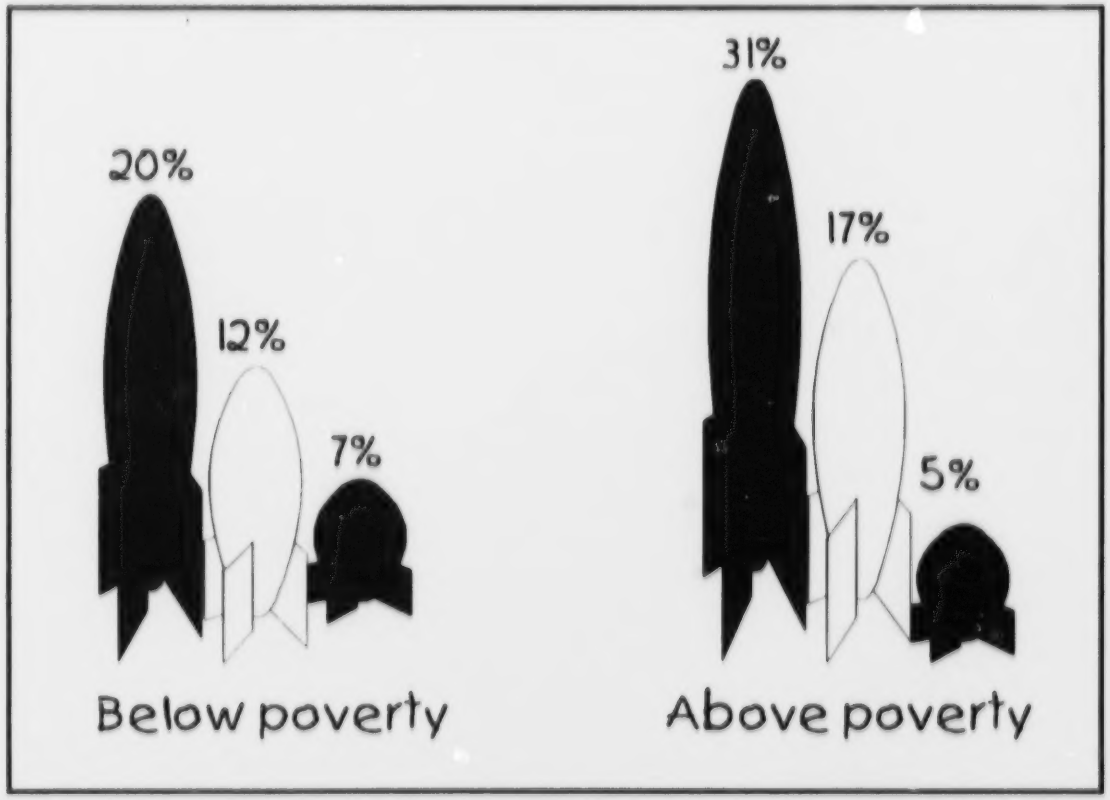
* limited to families with only preschoolers

Economic status plays a major part in the choice of child care.

Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Monthly Family Income



Percent of Preschoolers of Employed Women in Frequently Paid for Child Care Arrangements by Family Poverty Status

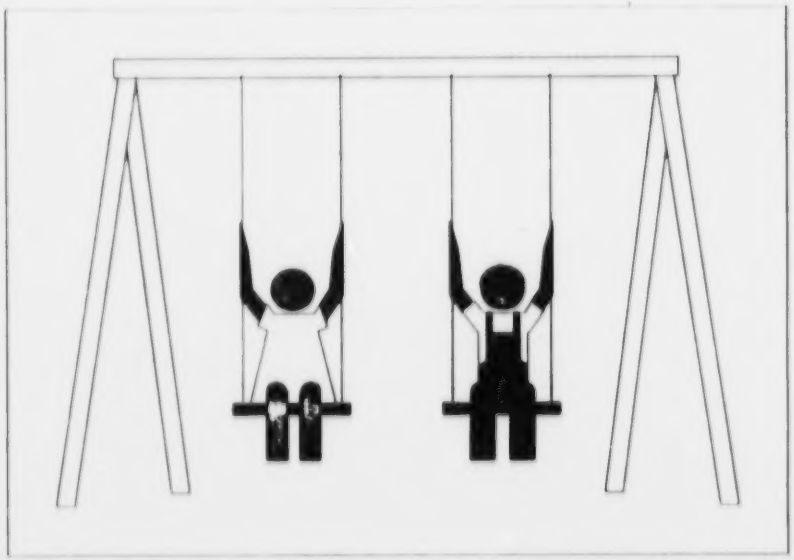


Organized child care facilities

Family day care settings

In-home Babysitters

Poor families are less likely to pay for child care than other families.



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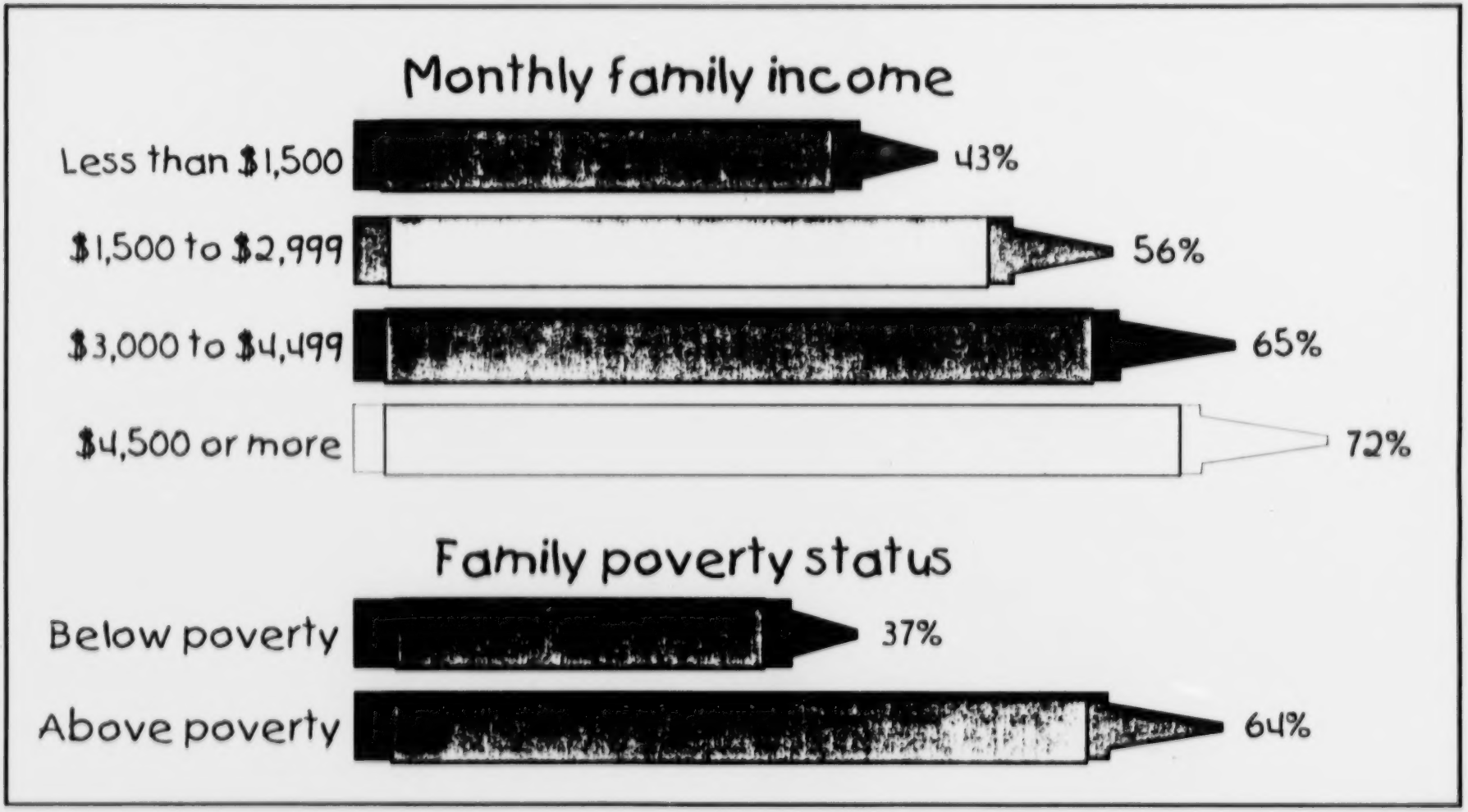

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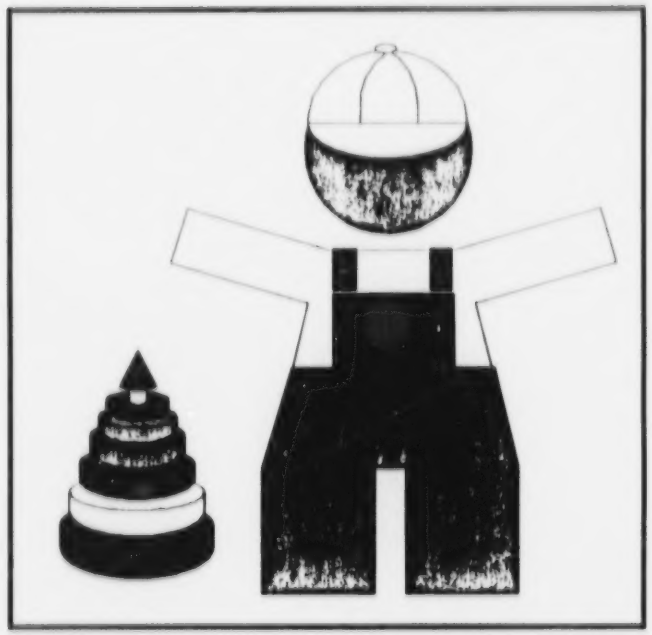
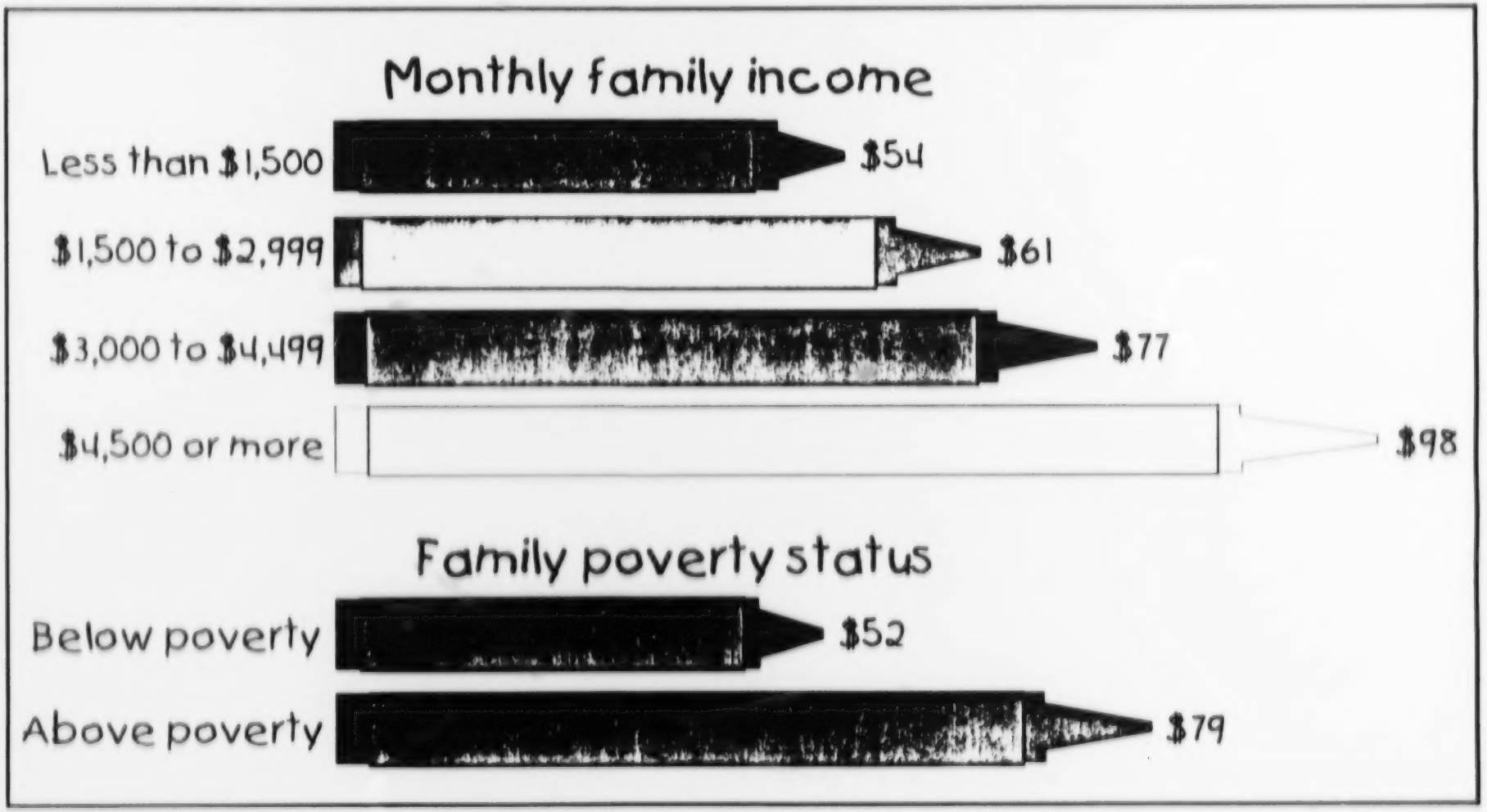


Weekly Cost of Child Care for Families by Family Income and Poverty Status*



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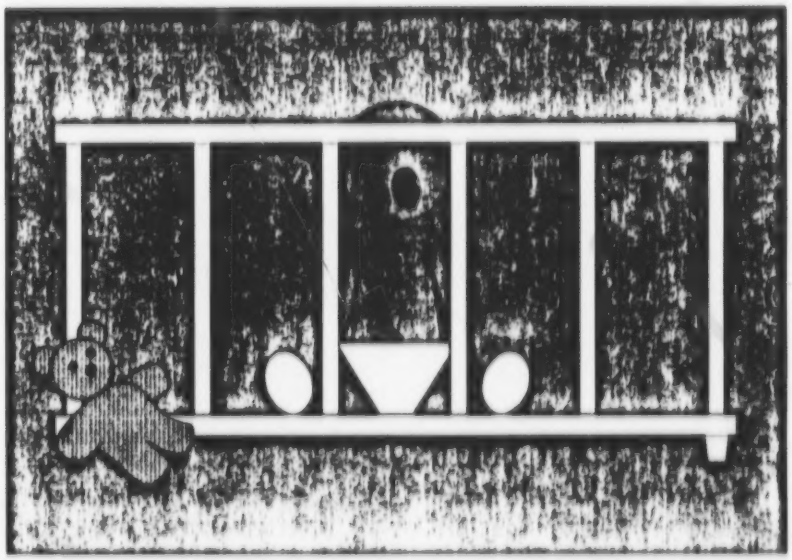
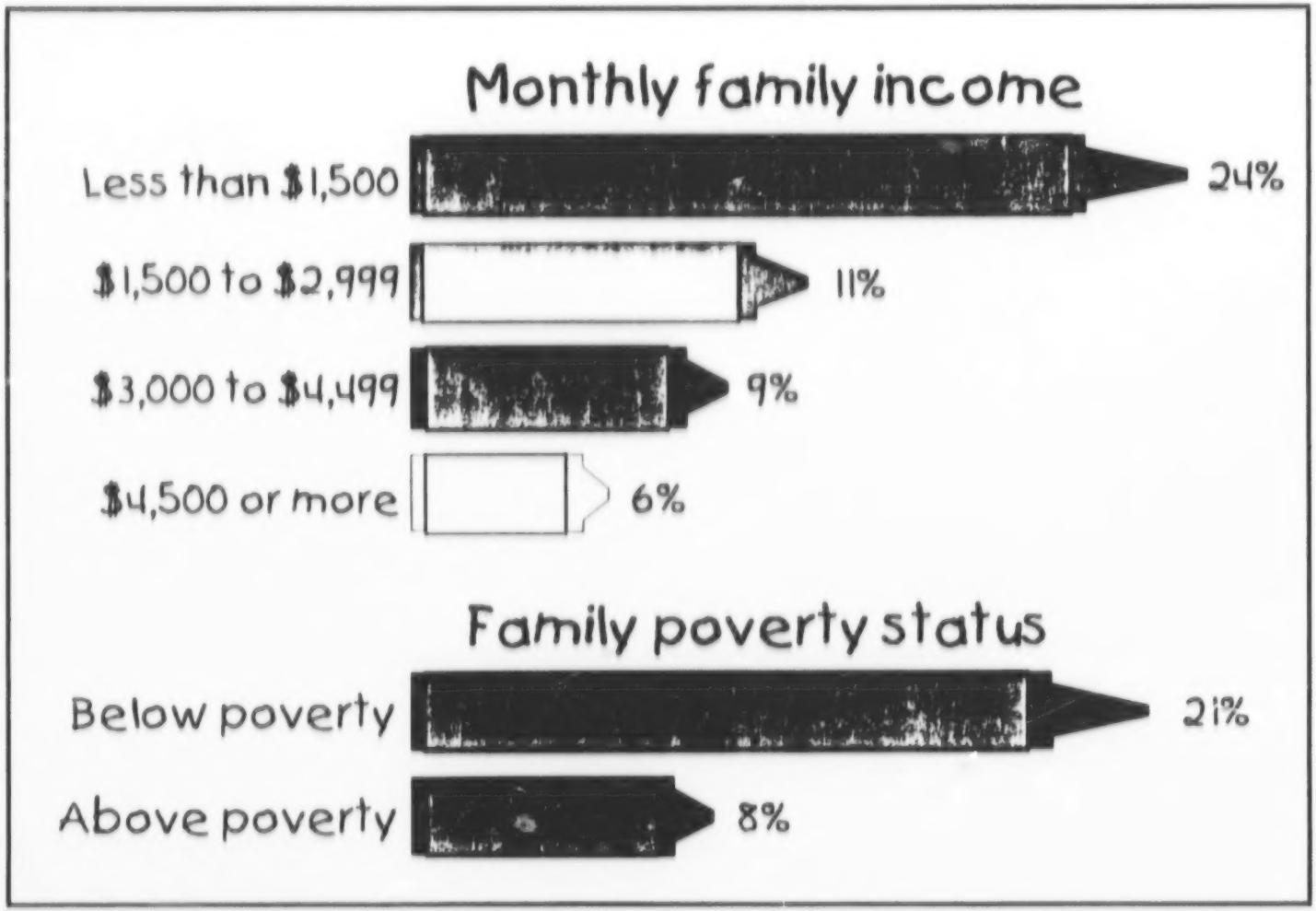
Poor families pay a larger share of their monthly income for child care.



Percent of Monthly Family Income Spent on Child Care by Family Income and Poverty Status*



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For Further Information Contact:

Lynne M. Casper and Martin O' Connell

Fertility Statistics Branch,
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U.S. Bureau of the Census
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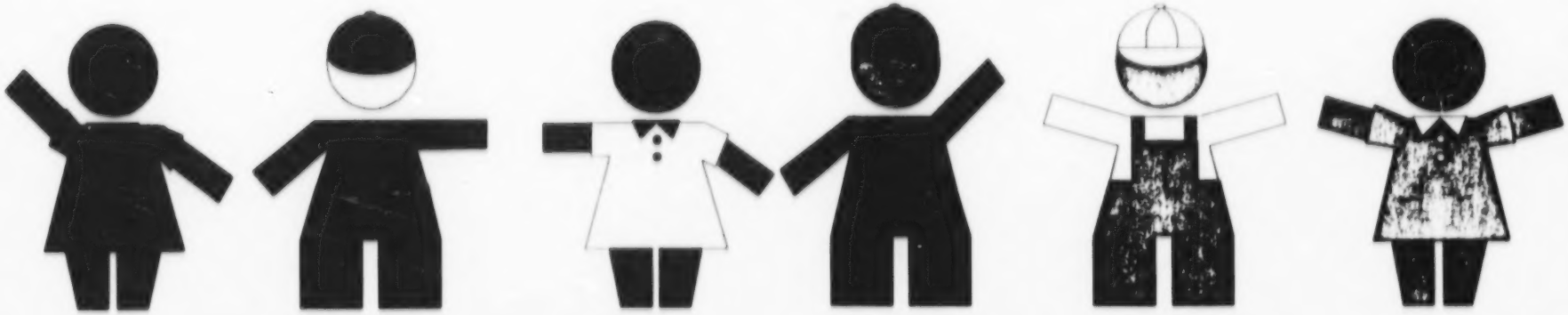

CH - Child's home
PH - Provider's home
Day care/Nursery - Organized facilities

			DCC													
		ALL	(Father CH	Grand CH	Orel CH	(Nonrel CH	Grand PH	Orel PH	(Nonrel PH	Day care	(Nurse-ry	Sch activ-ity	In school	Self care	(Mother care
		WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM
ALL		32213	3184	1010	857	713	1314	708	2037	2179	1316	695	16579	619	1002
KSA															
Kid<5 (Children under 5 yrs)		9937	1585	649	328	492	996	543	1645	1823	1149	16	95	.	616
Kid 5-14 (Children 5-14 yrs)		22276	1599	362	529	220	318	165	391	356	167	679	16484	619	386
PFTIME															
Full time		21466	1477	617	590	443	914	487	1403	1693	924	471	11452	502	493
Part time		10747	1707	394	267	269	400	220	634	485	393	224	5127	117	509
MARST															
Married		24723	3068	555	535	483	901	433	1523	1677	1055	526	12707	397	865
Other marital		7490	117	456	322	230	413	274	514	502	262	169	3872	223	138
KSA	PFTIME														
Kid<5	Full time	6410	680	390	217	302	691	382	1162	1408	807	6	74	.	290
	Part time	3527	905	259	111	191	305	161	483	414	342	9	21	.	326
Kid 5-14	Full time	15056	797	227	373	142	223	105	240	285	116	464	11378	502	203
	Part time	7220	803	135	157	79	95	59	151	71	51	215	5105	117	183
MARST	PFTIME														
Married	Full time	15945	1438	323	356	318	608	318	1078	1301	729	332	8419	319	406
	Part time	8778	1630	232	179	165	293	115	445	376	326	194	4288	77	458
Other marital	Full time	5521	39	294	233	125	306	169	325	393	195	139	3033	183	87
	Part time	1969	78	162	89	104	107	105	189	109	67	30	839	40	51
KSA	MARST														
Kid<5	Married	7841	1514	378	183	394	750	360	1282	1429	924	9	75	.	543

(Numbers in 1,000s)

			MCC							
		ALL	Childs home	Other home	Organ care	Sch activity	In school	Self care	Mother care
		WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM	WT SUM
ALL		32213	5765	4058	3495	695	16579	619	1002
K5A									
Kid<5		9937	3054	3184	2972	16	95	.	616
Kid 5-14		22276	2711	874	523	679	16484	619	386
PFTIME									
Full time		21466	3127	2804	2617	471	11452	502	493
Part time		10747	2638	1254	878	224	5127	117	509
MARST									
Married		24723	4640	2857	2731	526	12707	397	865
Other marital		7490	1124	1201	764	169	3872	223	138
K5A	PFTIME								
Kid<5	Full time	6410	1589	2235	2216	6	74	.	290
	Part time	3527	1465	949	756	9	21	.	326
Kid 5-14	Full time	15056	1538	569	401	464	11378	502	203
	Part time	7220	1173	305	122	215	5105	117	183
MARST	PFTIME								
Married	Full time	15945	2435	2004	2029	332	3419	319	406
	Part time	8778	2205	853	702	194	4288	77	458
Other marital	Full time	5521	691	800	588	139	3033	183	87
	Part time	1969	433	401	176	30	839	40	51
K5A	MARST								
Kid<5	Married	7841	2468	2392	2353	9	75	.	543

(CONTINUED)